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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

25X1

COUNTRY : USSR

DATE DISTR. 19 Feb 52

SUBJECT : Rectifier Plant in  
Sverdlovsk,

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

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NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)DATE  
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1.  the electrical works in Sverdlovsk   
 25X1 rectifier plant  was separated from the  
 25X1 electric works. The smaller plant, which actually was the  
 25X1 rectifier plant, employed 1500 workers, of which 40% were forced  
 25X1 labor, 30% women, 10% unskilled labor, 10% semi-skilled labor,  
 25X1 and 10% skilled labor. Only single anode rectifiers assembled in  
 25X1 blocks of six were manufactured there, copied from American  
 models. These rectifiers were used for railroad installations  
 and electrolytic systems, especially for aluminum electrolysis,  
 and did not represent anything new in known technical fields.  
 With the exception of modern grid control mechanisms which were  
 developed by Dr Ernst Ludwig on the basis of Siemens diagrams, no  
 new production was undertaken.
2. The general condition of the factory gave an impression of ca-  
 tastrophe. Installations to insure the proper assembly of  
 rectifiers were not available, and were manufactured in part  
 25X1  there. There was an acute  
 shortage of the most necessary tools, such as hammers, pliers,  
 files, vises, etc. The few workers who had their own tools had  
 to guard them carefully, and sometimes even carried them with  
 them, attached on strings. Generally, wrenches or stones were  
 used in place of hammers.
3. The general production procedure was dictated completely by a  
 plan, which had to be approved in every detail by Moscow. Since  
 25X1 material could be procured only after the plan had been approved,  
 actual manufacture was begun weeks or months late, and then was  
 hastily performed in order to meet deadlines.

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4. Besides Dr Ludwig [ ] there were no German specialists working in Sverdlovsk. A certain engineer Weinberger (fnu) from Austria had worked in the plant. He came to the USSR in 1928 under a 10 year contract. He is a Communist and of Jewish descent. Weinberger was transferred to Berlin in 1948 and occupies a leading position with the Reparations Commission. Mrs Weinberger worked in the electric plant in Sverdlovsk as a doctor.
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5. Dr Ludwig was given the task of developing a modern rectifier control system and had completed this task in 1949. The development was awarded the Stalin Prize, which, however, was not given to Dr Ludwig, but was distributed among three engineers in the plant. Dr Ludwig then received an offer to go to Moscow, which he refused. Since Dr Ludwig was not assigned any new tasks by the plant, he has not been required to work there actively since 1949. He still participates in conferences; however, his presence goes unnoticed. He continues to receive his full salary of Rubles 6 thousand. As a result of these conditions, Dr Ludwig is mentally exhausted. He will not speak a single word for days, not even to his wife. The return of Dr Ludwig is very unlikely. [ ] Dr Ludwig is being retained in the USSR because of his activities with the development of V-weapons, even though he was not used in this capacity in the USSR. In 1946, Dr Ludwig delivered to the Soviets at Schoenweide extensive testimony about the development of V-weapons. Dr Ludwig was the theoretical expert at Siemens, and was responsible for the calculation of flight paths.
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6. [ ] The transport consisted mainly of families from Schoenweide, of which 35 went to Leningrad and 11 to Monino. The latter formed a group called "Joswig", and were known as V-weapons personnel. It was not possible to contact these families by correspondence. The "Joswig" group was transferred about two years ago from Monino to the islands in Lake Seliger. 2400 Germans were at Kuibyshev-Volga. [ ] about 50 of this group died there, and about one thousand were started on their return to Germany.
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7. [ ]
8. Extensive construction of industrial installations is underway in Sverdlovsk, which most likely has a connection with the large scale transfer of heavy industry behind the Ural Mountains.
9. [ ] observed strong pillbox fortifications at the Russo-Polish border, east of the Bug River, even though [ ] strictly warned not to come close to the windows in the train. [ ]
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- 25X1 in Berlin, however, [ ] any amount saved in the USSR and kept there until departure would be exchanged at the rate of one Ruble equals .64 East Marks, which meant that the Rubles 28 thousand [ ] equals [ ] were worth only East Marks 18 thousand."
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